

2 Chronicles 1-4

Good evening and thank you for joining us, we're continuing our study through the OT as we tonight begin our study in the book of 2 Chronicles.

The focus of 1 Chronicles really zeroed in on the Davidic Covenant, with God's promises to David and his descendants, including instructions for building the temple. Now as 2 Chronicles opens, it recounts the events of Solomon's reign, specifically emphasizing the temple that Solomon built. Almost everything he mentioned about Solomon ties in with the temple somehow.

When the Chronicler wrote his history, there was controversy over the second temple (the temple that Ezra built). Some of the residents in and around Jerusalem opposed its construction (Ezra 4:4-24; Hag. 1:2-4).

If the returned exiles were to renew their covenant relationship with God, they had to have a temple. There they could obey the laws regarding atonement for sin, worship, and fellowship with God

We're gonna be studying chapters 1-4, and the title of tonight's message is The importance of the temple

Let's pray

Chapter 1 we see Solomon Requests Wisdom (1 Kings 3:1–15)
1-3

1 Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.

2 And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses. 3 Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. This was a big event. Solomon invited everyone in Israel to Gibeon. And we're about to see that Solomon offers 1,000 burnt offerings-this incredible amount of sacrifice demonstrated both Solomon's great wealth and his heart to use his wealth to glorify God.

4-7

4 But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. 5 Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there. 6 And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

7 On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

SHOW PIC We've all seen the cartoon or movie where a person comes upon the magic lamp, where a genie pops up and grants the wishes of those who found him. **CLOSE PIC**

And I'm sure you've played the game-if you could wish for anything, what would it be? The obvious answer is unlimited wishes right?

All joking aside, this is the situation Solomon finds himself in-God appears to Solomon and says-what do you want?

8-10

8 And Solomon said to God: “You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. 10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” It’s been said the beginning of true wisdom is to recognize the need for wisdom

God asks Solomon what he wants, and Solomon was wise enough to know it didn’t matter the size of his bank account - or length of his days - or his popularity – or victories over his enemies. Solomon recognized the gravity, the weightiness of ruling God’s people. So Solomon asks God for wisdom so that he might rule God’s people properly.

And God was pleased with Solomon’s request...

11-12

11 Then God said to Solomon: “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king— 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were

before you, nor shall any after you have the like.” Why was the Lord pleased? Because Solomon, the most powerful man in the world, makes a selfless request. Solomon’s desire is not to be served, but to serve.

Jesus is always pleased when our desire is to be like Him.

Matthew 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

The natural reaction to reading this promise of God to Solomon is to wish we had such a promise. We do have them.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

And

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

And

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Well then, why don’t we each have a vacation home in hawaii? Why hasn’t God given us the physical healing we oh so desire? Because so often our prayers are not in alignment with His will.

God not only granted Solomon wisdom - He threw in the riches, and honor, and longevity – all the “other stuff” Solomon could’ve asked for, but didn’t. 2 Chron 1 proves what Jesus spoke in

Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

13-17

13 So Solomon came to Jerusalem from the high place that was at Gibeon, from before the tabernacle of meeting, and reigned over Israel. 14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. 15 Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland. 16 And Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price. 17 They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents,[fn] they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. Here's where you may want to jot down the reference to Ecclesiastes, as Solomon gives a poetic testimony to the vanity of riches. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon powerfully showed that there is no ultimate satisfaction through materialism.

Chapter 2 Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple (1 Kings 5)

1 Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal house for himself. Remember it was David's idea to build the temple, but God prohibited him from building the Temple because David was a man of war.

2-6

2 Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.

3 Then Solomon sent to Hiram^[fn] king of Tyre, saying:

As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. 4 Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.

5 And the temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. 6 But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him? Solomon knew that no earthly structure could contain Almighty God. The Temple was built to declare God's name and glorify Him to the whole nation.

7-9

7 Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided. 8 Also send me cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and indeed my servants will be with your servants, 9 to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the temple which I am about to build shall be great

and wonderful. Solomon is asking alot from the king of Tyre- what's Solomon gonna give in return?

10 And indeed I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil. The payment for all these requests of skilled labor and supplies is food. Solomon certainly had plenty to spare. 11-12

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon:

Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.

12 Hiram^[fn] also said:

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal house for himself! This is a very important verse. Notice that God used Gentiles to help the Hebrews build their Temple. This was forgotten by later Jews who grew to hate the Gentiles. 13-16

13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram^[fn] my master^[fn] craftsman 14 (the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make

any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men and with the skillful men of my lord David your father.

15 Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants. 16 And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem. **SHOW PIC** When you go to israel we take you to Joppa, which is a sea port on the mediterranean. **CLOSE PIC**

17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred. 18 And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work. These aliens were non jews who lived in Israel, and they were also allowed to partake in building the temple

Chapter 3 Solomon Builds the Temple (1 Kings 6)

1 Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD^[fn] had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan^[fn] the Jebusite. This was the same hill where Abraham offered Isaac back in Genesis 22. This was also the same set of hills where Jesus would later die on the cross on a hill called calvary.

2 And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign. This was probably in the year 967 B.C.

Now we're gonna show a video on loop as we go through the description of the temple and the items inside.

SHOW VIDEO

3-4

3 This is the foundation which Solomon laid for building the house of God: The length was sixty cubits (by cubits according to the former measure) and the width twenty cubits. 4 And the vestibule that was in front of the sanctuary^[fn] was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the height was one hundred and^[fn] twenty. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. If a cubit is 18" - the Temple was 90' long, by 30' wide, by 45' high.

5 The larger room^[fn] he paneled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chainwork on it. 6 And he decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim. 7 He also overlaid the house—the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors—with gold; and he carved cherubim on the walls. These angelic beings worship God perpetually in heaven—this was a symbolic reminder of that truth.

8 And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold. Special attention was given to the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place. It was a 30-foot (10 meter) cube, completely overlaid with gold. It

also had two 15 ft sculptures of cherubim which were overlaid with gold.

9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold; and he overlaid the upper area with gold. In today's gold market the Temple is estimated to cost \$56m. Imagine a building with only 14,000 square feet of floor space at this price tag!

10-13

10 In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold. 11 The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub; 12 one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub. 13 The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet, and they faced inward. These two large sculptures inside the Most Holy Place faced the entrance to this inner room, so as soon as the High Priest entered he saw these giant guardians of the presence of God facing him. **CLOSE VIDEO**

14 And he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it. This was the important barrier separating the holy place from the Most Holy Place. Only one man, once a year, could go behind the veil and enter the Most Holy Place.

This is all pointing to Jesus. Spiritually speaking, in dying for our sins Jesus with His own blood entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption **Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

Hebrews 10:19 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

15 Also he made in front of the temple[fn] two pillars thirty-five[fn] cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits. 16 He made wreaths of chainwork, as in the inner sanctuary, and put them on top of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates, and put them on the wreaths of chainwork. 17 Then he set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand and the other on the left; he called the name of the one on the right hand Jachin, and the name of the one on the left Boaz.

Chapter 4-describes the furnishings of the Temple (1 Kings 6 & 7)

1 Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height.The idea behind the Hebrew word for altar is essentially, “killing-place.” This was the place of sacrifice, the center for worship and service for the priests and the people. It was big-30 square feet, but it was also 15 feet high-so everyone could see.

2 Then he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits,

and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. The huge laver was more than 15 feet across, and was used for the ceremonial washings.

3-4

3 And under it was the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The oxen were cast in two rows, when it was cast. 4 It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

This large pool of water was set upon sculptured oxen. Some scholars believe the 12 oxen represented the future twelve apostles, who carried the water of life all the world over.

5-8

5 It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand^[fn] baths.

6 He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in. 7 And he made ten lampstands of gold according to their design, and set them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left. 8 He also made ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left. And he made one hundred bowls of gold. The work of the temple required lampstands for light and tables to hold the showbread, the bread that represented the continual fellowship of Israel with God.

9 Furthermore he made the court of the priests, (Inner court-only for priests) and the great court and doors for the court; and he overlaid these doors with bronze. (outer court-open to all Israel)

10 He set the Sea on the right side, toward the southeast.

11 Then Hiram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing the work that he was to do for King

Solomon for the house of God: These articles were of special note for the Chronicler, because these were some of the only articles that were recovered and used from the first temple period into the days of the Chronicler.

12-18

12 the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars; 13 four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the pillars); 14 he also made carts and the lavers on the carts; 15 one Sea and twelve oxen under it; 16 also the pots, the shovels, the forks—and all their articles Hiram his master[fn] craftsman made of burnished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.

17 In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zeredah.[fn] 18 And Solomon had all these articles made in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze was not determined. So much bronze was used that there was no attempt to keep an accurate account of what was given to the service of God **Matthew 6:3 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,**

4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.[fn]

Let's finish the chapter

19 Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God: the altar of gold and the tables on which was the showbread; 20 the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary, 21 with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold, of purest gold; 22 the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold. As for the entry of the sanctuary, its inner doors to the Most Holy Place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple, were gold.

It's interesting, whenever we're allowed a glimpse into heaven we always see angels hovering near God's throne. Solomon's Temple also had its angels – made from olive wood.

In Revelation 4:6 when John sees the heavenly scene he sees FOUR living creatures. It's interesting that Solomon makes two cherubim for the Temple - but you'll recall the Ark also had two cherubim attached to the lid or mercy seat. That means Solomon also had a total of FOUR cherubim in the earthly Holy of Holies.

What a contrast there was between the Tabernacle and the Temple... The Tabernacle was portable. The Temple was permanent.

The Tabernacle was erected in the desert - the Temple built on a mountain. The Tabernacle was ugly to the eye. When you

approached it all you saw were the dark, badger skins that served as its covering. On the other hand, the Temple glistened in the sunshine. Everyone in Jerusalem could see its beauty and glory.

The Tabernacle was ordinary - whereas the Temple was glorious. You could only see the beauty of the Tabernacle from the inside.

This is a picture of Jesus. According to Isaiah 53, at His first appearance Jesus was without form and comeliness. He lacked physical attraction. But at His second appearance He'll radiate with glory.

His first coming was temporary. He lived a short life. When Jesus comes again He'll rule forever.